

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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R 121327Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5796

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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SUMMARY: SECDEF INVITATIONAL CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION, WHICH VISITED EGYPT AUG 8-10, MET WITH PRESIDENT SADAT AND PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY MEMBERS, RECEIVING FULL EXPOSURE TO EGYPTIAN VIEWS AND OBJECTIVES WITH RESPECT TO CURRENT MIDDLE EAST SITUATION. DELEGATION SEEMED IMPRESSED BY VERY CORDIAL RECEPTION AND CAREFUL ATTENTION PAID THEM BY EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS AND ENJOYED OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH THEM ON TWO SOCIAL OCCASIONS HOSTED BY PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY AND AMBASSADOR RESPECTIVELY. END SUMMARY

1. SECDEF INVITATIONAL CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION LED BY ASST SECDEF MAURY AND WHICH INCLUDED SENATOR BUMPERS AND REPRESENTATIVE RANDALL TOGETHER WITH SIX OTHER MEMBERS OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOLLOWED FULL SCHEDULE DURING AUG 8-10 VISIT TO EGYPT.

2. IMMEDIATELY AFTER ARRIVAL AUG 8 DELEGATION ATTENDED EMBASSY BRIEFING CONDUCTED BY CHARGE WITH PARTICIPATION OF AID DIRECTOR AND DATT. DELEGATION HAD OPPORTUNITY THAT AFTERNOON VISIT PYRAMIDS AND SPHINX AFTER WHICH THEY ATTENDED A MEETING AT PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY.

3. THIS FIRST SUBSTANTIVE MEETING OCCURRED AUG 8

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WHEN DR. GAMAL EL-OTEIFI, DEPUTY SPEAKER OF PEOPLE'S

ASSEMBLY, HOSTED DISCUSSIONS WITH CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION IN PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS IN WHICH SEVERAL PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY MEMBERS PARTICIPATED, AS WELL AS TAHSIN BASHIR, PRESIDENTIAL PRESS COUNSELLOR. THIS SESSION WAS CHARACTERIZED BY VERY FRANK AND OPEN EXCHANGE ON MATTERS RELATED TO ARAB-ISRAELI PROBLEM. IN RESPONSE TO SENATOR BUMPERS' OPENING REMARKS STRESSING US INTEREST IN ME PEACE, OTEIFI EMPHASIZED EGYPT'S PRAGMATIC APPROACH WHICH SOUGHT JUSTICE AND RETURN OF OCCUPIED LANDS. BASHIR STRESSED NEED FOR AMERICAN CONSIDERATION NOT ONLY OF ISRAELI SECURITY, BUT ALSO OF RIGHTS OF PALESTINIANS AND SECURITY OF ALL ARABS INVOLVED, AND ASKED WHY NO VOICE WAS HEARD IN CONGRESS SPEAKING ON PALESTINIANS'S BEHALF. REP ESHLEMAN EXPLAINED ATTITUDE OF AMERICAN PEOPLE TOWARD OUTSIDE INVOLVEMENT AND INDICATED THERE WAS GROWING ADMIRATION FOR PRESIDENT SADAT AND GREATER AWARENESS OF ELEMENTS OF ME SITUATION. REPLYING TO REP ECHKHARD'S QUESTION, OTEIFI SAID PALESTINAIN STATE MUST INCLUDE GAZA STRIP AND WEST BANK OF JORDAN. ANOTHER PA MEMBER, DR. KHADI MADE TELLING POINT BY CALLING DELEGATIONS'S ATTENTION TO FACT THAT ONLY EGYPT AMONG ARABS WOULD MAKE WAR WITH ISRAEL AND URGED US CONGRESS, THEREFORE, TO SUPPORT SADAT'S EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE INTERIM AGREEMENT AND PROMOTE PEACE IN AREA.

4. FOLLOWING THIS INTERESTING SESSION DELEGATION ATTENDED RECEPTION GIVEN BY DR. OTEIFI AT WHICH NUMBER OF SENIOR GOE OFFICIALS WERE PRESENT INCLUDING MINISTER OF INFORMATION ABU MAGD AND MINISTER OF STATE (PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY AFFAIRS) ALBERT BARSOUM, AL AHARAM EDITOR-IN-CHEIF ALI HAMDY AL-GAMAL WAS ALSO PRESENT.

5. HIGHLIGHT OF VISIT, BOTH SUBSTANTIVE AND OTHERWISE, WAS, OF COURSE, DELEGATION'S MEETING FOLLOWING DAY, AUG 9, WITH PRESIDENT SADAT. GOE PROVIDED AIRCRAFT TO TAKE DELEGATION TO MERSA MATRUH WHERE THEY MET WITH PRESIDENT WHO HAD COME FROM HIS RESIDENCE AT RAS EL HIKMA. SADAT SET TONE FOR VISIT BY MOVING MEETING, WHICH HAD BEEN SCHEDULED FOR AUDITORIUM IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GOVERNOR'S OFFICE, TO A SMALLER ROOM WHERE HE AND CONGRESSMEN COULD SIT INFORMALLY AROUND A LONG TABLE. FULL TEXT OF CONGRESSIONAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS BY SADAT WAS CARRIED FBIS P 101815Z AUG 75.

6. BECAUSE VISIT TO MERSA MATRUH TOOK BETTER PART OF DAY, DELEGATION ONLY HAD BRIEF OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT CAIRO'S ORIENTAL BAZAAR. LAST EVENT ON THEIR SCHEDULE

WAS RECEPTION HOSTED BY AMBASSADOR AND MRS. EILTS (AMBASSADOR WAS NOT PRESENT DUE TO CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON). RECEPTION WAS VERY WELL ATTENDED BY VARIETY OF EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS INCLUDING MINISTER OF FINANCE ABU ISMAIL DEPUTY SPEAKER OTEIFI AND UNDER SECRETARY OF ECONOMY DR. SHINDI, REPRESENTATIVES OF EGYPTIAN MILITARY AND PRIVATE BUSINESS SECTOR WERE ALSO PRESENT. MEMBERS OF DELEGATION HAD EXTENSIVE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS WITH EGYPTIAN GUESTS THEIR REACTIONS AND IMPRESSIONS OF THEIR VISIT.

7. PRESS COVERAGE OF CONGRESSIONAL VISIT WAS EXTENSIVE WITH DAILY ARTICLES COVERING DELEGATION ARRIVAL, PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY MEETING AND SESSION WITH PRESIDENT SADAT IN CONSIDERABLE DETAIL (SEE CAIRO 7926).

8. COMMENT: DELEGATION WAS CLEARLY IMPRESSED BY SADAT'S SINCERITY AND DETERMINATION TO WORK FOR PEACE IN ME AREA AND APPRECIATED VERY FRANK AND OPEN MANNER IN WHICH HE RESPONDED TO THEIR QUESTIONS AND EXPLAINED EGYPT'S OBJECTIVES AND ASPIRATIONS. THIS WAS CLEARLY FOR THEM THE HIGH POINT OF THEIR VISIT TO EGYPT AND IT WAS INTERESTING TO HEAR THEIR COMPARISONS BETWEEN SADAT AND RABIN WHOM THEY HAD MET EARLIER WHICH WERE HIGHLY FAVORABLE TO THE FORMER. PRIOR TO THE PRESIDENTIAL MEETING, SOME CONGRESSMEN HAD ALREADY CHARACTERIZED PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY DISCUSSION AS HIGH POINT, UP UNTIL THAT TIME, OF THEIR VISIT TO MEDITERRANEAN AREA. THE FRIENDLINESS AND FRANKNESS OF THEIR EGYPTIAN INTERLOCUTERS AND THEIR EVIDENT DESIRE FOR PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF AREA'S PROBLEMS WERE IMPRESSIVE. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT DELEGATION CLEARLY ENJOYED THESE CONTACTS WITH GOE TOP OFFICIALS, INCLUDING THOSE ON TWO SOCIAL OCCASIONS, AND DEPARTED EGYPT WITH A DEEPER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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APPRECIATION OF EGYPTIAN CONCERNS AND INTENTIONS WITH RESPECT TO MIDDLE EAST PROBLEMS.
EILTS

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